

Wilderness Conservation Coalition

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Andrew Josephson
Executive Director

U.S. Department of Transportation
Docket Management, Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: Docket Number USCG-2002-12876

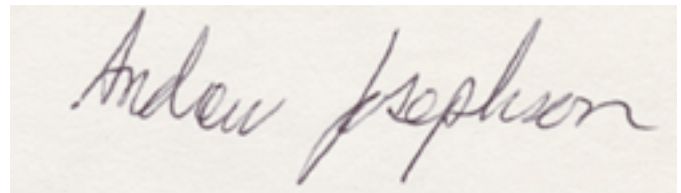
September 24, 2002

I appreciate the chance to comment on the proposed rulemaking session of the Coast Guard for updating and enhancement of the Chesapeake Bay transportation scheme. As a long-time advocate of sound shipping methods and oil spill prevention, my organization has worked at length in the drawing of new plans for estuarine shipping channels in the United States, and is happy to aid in keeping the home to dozens of permanent and migratory animals safe.

Reports indicate that the Bay's geology specifically is changing rapidly with time and that preventing ship groundings should be a pressing concern. To account for this, the Orange Ribbon Foundation for Wildlife supports the use of depth-sounding technology to swiftly and effectively measure and record depth around Chesapeake Bay prior to the actual designation of new shipping lanes with the hope of improving long-term accuracy and proper navigational opportunity. Studying drift patterns and plotting lanes accordingly will help minimize accident, as well as minimize toxic-stirring dredging in areas throughout the Bay. We believe that this system will make maximal streamlined use of resources in preserving the utility of Chesapeake Bay.

The Bay's resuscitating qualities after decades of pollution require that significant care be provided to avoid incidents with problematic sandbars and keep up with geological evolution in order to preserve its health. We support the Coast Guard in its quest to provide full maritime safety for the Chesapeake Bay and hope that a swift analysis will bring satisfying reduction of risk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Andrew Josephson", written in a cursive style on a light-colored background.

Andrew Josephson

